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Control: 14478
Rec'd: October 18, 1961
5:35 p.m.

FILE

FROM: Moscow

TO: Secretary of State
NO: 1003, October 18, 6 p.m.

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 1003, INFORMATION BONN 78, LONDON 1131
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PARIS FOR USRO

Rumor reported by Hamilton in October 15 NEW YORK TIMES to effect that Moscow prepared pursue more moderate course in Cuba if US eases stand on Berlin is angrily denounced by RS commentator Polyanov in October 17 IZVESTIYA. Polyanov charges rumor instigated by State Department to compromise Soviet Union in eyes world public opinion and "to use official denial of nonexistent offer for whipping up war psychosis both in Caribbean Zone and Central Europe".

Subject of Cuba is also touched upon in October 18 PRAVDA through Tass despatch from Mexico carrying quotes from interview given by former President Cardenas and published in newspaper DIA. Cardenas reported as saying Cuba's peaceful intentions evident, referring in this connection to statement by Dorticos that Cuba prepared conduct negotiations with US through normal diplomatic channels or other appropriate means and that Cuba could compensate American citizens injured by revolutionary laws.

Comment: Although it standard practice for Soviets to denounce reports like that of Hamilton, the trial balloon has been shot down by the State Department. It is interesting to note that the State Department would wish further to improve public situation by linking it to Cuban question. The message is that it is not a mere rumor, it is to pay attention to the situation.

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-2- 1003, October 18, 6 p.m. from Moscow

last few days Yemen getting as much, or more, coverage in Soviet press as Cuba). Article on Cardenas interview suggests to Soviet reader that Moscow approves idea of US-Cuban negotiations to resolve differences. Not without interest that article includes reference to compensation for American citizens, thus suggesting that US has legitimate complaint against Castro regime.

KOHLER

TRT

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Subject of Cuba is also touched upon in October 16 PRAVDA through Tass despatch from Mexico carrying quotes from interview given by former President Cardenas and published in newspaper DIA. Cardenas reported as saying Cuba's peaceful intentions evident, referring in this connection to statement by Dorticos that Cuba prepared conduct negotiations with US through normal diplomatic channels or other appropriate means and that Cuba could compensate American citizens injured by revolutionary laws.

Comment: Although it standard practice for Soviets to denounce reports like that of Hamilton, once trial balloon has been shot down by other side, as Secretary has done in this instance, we are [illegible] doubt whether Soviets would wish further complicate Berlin situation by linking it to Cuban question. Tendency, as we read it here at moment, is to play Cuba relatively low key (e.g.,

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